

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9777

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, IT

1. MINISTER UMBERTO LA ROCCA, COORDINATOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN MFA, TOOK INITIATIVE TO RAISE WITH EMBOFF GENERAL SUBJECT OF LIAISON BETWEEN USG AND GOI DURING ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF EEC COUNCIL. LA ROCCA SAID THAT BRITISH FONMIN CALLAGHAN (DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ROME) HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ITALIAN FONMIN RUMOR SEEK IMMEDIATELY TO ESTABLISH CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SECRETARY IN ORDER TO CREATE APPROPRIATE CLIMATE FOR GENUINE CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. (NOTE SIMILAR COMMENT IN DUBLIN 1177 PARA 1 (F). LA ROCCA SAID THAT MFA BELIEVES IT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR RUMOR TO HAVE FREQUENT ENCOUNTERS WITH SECRETARY DURING PERIOD OF ITALIAN PRESIDENCY. WHILE HE SEES NO POSSIBILITY FOR MEETING EARLY IN JULY, HE THINKS THAT RUMOR CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF GOING TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY AFTER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING JULY 19/21. (ROME 9597) RUMOR WILL BE ENGAGED WITH EEC MINISTERS MEETING AND OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

2. COMMENT: GIVEN IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CLOSE AND CONSTANT LIAISON AND CONSULTATION WITH EC/NINE THROUGH PRESIDENCY, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT RUMOR BE INVITED TO GO TO WASHINGTON IN LATE JULY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. IF MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE CANNOT BE FOUND FOR MEETING IN WASHINGTON, I WOULD HOPE THAT EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO FIND SOME OTHER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME

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AND PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. NOTE: ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY NOT

CERTAIN. IT NOW APPEARS REASONABLY LIKELY THAT PRESENT MORO
GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE DURING MOST OF THE REMAINDER OF
THIS CALENDAR YEAR. RUMOR IS, THEREFORE LIKELY TO CONTINUE AS
FOREIGN MINISTER FOR MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY.
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